

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3627
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
GENETICALLY FOOD STUFF
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is required to observe extra precautions in using genetic food and seeds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of precautions required to be observed;
- (c) whether the Government have alerted the agricultural producers about these precautions;
- (d) if so, the arrangements made to create awareness among farmers at the Central and state level; and
- (e) the percentage of farmers benefited so far thereunder?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): All Genetically Modified food and seeds before introduction into the Indian environment requires authorization under the Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules 1989. Such authorization is provided by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests after satisfactory evaluation of safety from the use of such materials, including safety to human and animal health. The Government of India has not yet accorded approval for commercial release of any genetically engineered food and seeds in the country.

(c) to (e): The Government of India organizes discussions and workshops involving participants from different walks of life to disseminate factual information about the utility as well as the risks involved in the use of genetically modified food and seeds.